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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Library Faces Fiscal Emergency

When the legislative branch appropriations bill for fiscal year 1986 was signed last November, the Library of Congress received $8.4 million less in funds than it had received for the previous fiscal year. These cuts affected virtually every area of the Library's operations and, with one exception, every department.

The passage of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Gramm-Rudman-Hollings) in December left the Library management faced with the prospect of an additional large reduction in funding. According to the Joint Report to the Comptroller General of the United States, *Sequestration Report for Fiscal Year 1986: A Summary,* issued by the Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office on January 15, the amount of nearly $9.9 million will have to be saved out of the Library's budget for the current year.

Based on this report, the General Accounting Office (GAO) then issued its report to the President, and as we went to press the President was expected to issue his sequestration order on February 1. His order is expected to confirm a 4.3 percent reduction in nondefense spending this fiscal year. If Congress does not act on the sequestration order during February, the President's order will take effect on March 1. This reduction (or sequestration) affects all appropriation accounts to the Library for the entire fiscal year.

The effect of the 1986 appropriations bill and Gramm-Rudman-Hollings is to reduce the amount of money the Library has to spend by approximately $18.3 million below the amount available to it last year. These reductions constitute a fiscal emergency for the Library of Congress, and the Library will curtail its expenses to meet these legally mandated reductions. Therefore, the Library must make choices that are urgent to avoid or to control costs.

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Haki Madhubuti and Sonia Sanchez To Read at the Library of Congress

Poets Haki R. Madhubuti and Sonia Sanchez will read from their work in the Library's Coolidge Auditorium on Monday evening, February 10. The 8 p.m. program is presented under the auspices of the Gertrude Clarke Whittall Poetry and Literature Fund. Admission is free.

Haki R. Madhubuti (Don L. Lee) is editor of Third World Press, editor of *Black Books Bulletin,* director of the Institute of Positive Education in Chicago, and associate professor of English at Chicago State University. He has been poet in residence at many universities—including Cornell, Illinois, and Howard—and was one of the founders of the Organization of Black American Culture Writer's Workshop (OBAC).

Among Mr. Madhubuti's books are *Think Black* (1967); *Black Pride* (1968); *Don't Cry, Scream* (1969); *We Walk the Way of the New World* (1970); *Directionscore: Selected and New Poems* (1971); *To Gwen, With Love* (1971); *Book of Life* (1973); *A Capsule Course in Black Poetry* (1975); and *Enemies: The Clash of Races* (1978), which he wrote with Gwendolyn Brooks, Keorapetse Kgositsile, and Dudley Randall; and *Earthquakes and Sunrise Missions* (1984).

Sonia Sanchez, who was born in Birmingham, Ala., has taught at such institutions as San Francisco University, the University of Pittsburgh, Rutgers University, City College of the City University of New York, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Ms. Sanchez is the author of several books for children and many plays, as well as the collections of poetry, *Homecoming* (1969), *We a BaddDDD People* (1970), *Love Poems* (1973), *A Blues Book for Blue Black Magical Women* (1974), and *homegirls & handgrenades* (1984).

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Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin,* Information Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Bruce Tapper, Editor

Floyd Riddick, parliamentarian emeritus of the United States Senate, recently visited the Library to present a copy of his latest book, Riddick's Rules of Procedure: A Modern Guide to Faster and More Efficient Meetings. *Floyd Riddick was the authority on procedure in the United States Senate from 1951 to 1974. Pictured above are Peter Bridge (left), chief, Exchange and Gift Division; The Librarian of Congress, Daniel J. Boorstin; Floyd Riddick; and William Cochrane, minority staff director, Committee on Rules and Administration United States Senate.*

Hispanic Division Promotes Knowledge Of Contemporary Luso-Hispanic Writers

The Hispanic Division in the Library of Congress is involved in an effort to make Luso-Hispanic and Iberoamerican writers better known to the public and more available to scholars. Sara Castro-Klarén, chief of the Hispanic Division, has initiated a series of writers seminars and a series of videotaping sessions to achieve this goal. Together with the division's long-standing program of making tape recordings of writers from all parts of the Hispanic world, these programs represent a unique and significant body of recorded literature.

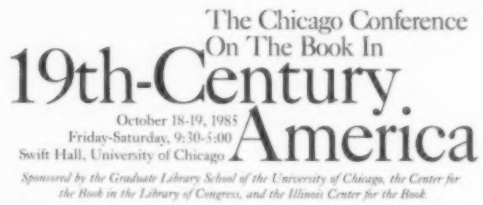
The Hispanic Writers Seminar Series began in the fall of 1984 and features Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian writers. The visiting writers address specialists in the Washington area, scholars-in-residence, and students about their literary careers and experiences in informal luncheon settings. The purpose of the programs is to allow specialists in the Washington area to become better acquainted with the writers, as well as to expose the visiting writers to a broad spectrum of Luso-Hispanic specialists in academia, government, and international organizations.

(Continued on p. 49)

Chicago Conference on the Book in 19th-Century America

A Report on Papers Presented on October 18 and 19, 1985

More than 130 librarians, book historians, bibliographers, professors, book dealers, and students attended a two-day Conference on the 19th-Century Book at the University of Chicago on October 18 and 19. The conference was cosponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago, and the new Illinois Center for the Book. It was organized by Michael Hackenberg, assistant professor in the Graduate Library School. John Y. Cole, executive director of the Center for the Book, served as a host for the conference along with W. Boyd Rayward, dean of the Graduate Library School, and Jim Edgar, Illinois secretary of state and state librarian, and chairman of the Illinois Center for the Book.


The Chicago Conference
On The Book In
19th-Century
America
October 18-19, 1985
Friday-Saturday, 9:30-5:00
Swift Hall, University of Chicago
Sponsored by the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago, the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, and the Illinois Center for the Book

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Edgar noted that the occasion was the first major program for the Illinois Center for the Book, whose mission is to foster greater understanding of the book in all its contexts and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the printed word.

Conference registrants came from every region of the United States. The broad geographical representation was appropriate for a conference with the theme of books on the American frontier. The speakers, in turn, demonstrated that the frontier for the dissemination of books and newspapers in 19th-century America was in every geographical region and in the many challenges facing publishers. The paramount challenge of 19th-century publishers was book distribution, either to members of the book trade or to places far from the main publishing and manufacturing centers of Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. The ways in which publishers met this challenge was the subject of the papers given on the first day of the conference.

Michael Winship of Harvard University led off with a paper entitled, "Getting the Books Out: Trade Sales, Parcel Sales and Book Fairs in the 19th-Century United States." His study uncovered a variety of methods used by the book trade to sell unwanted books, stereotype plates, and stationery to other members of the trade. Noting his work was a preliminary investigation, Mr. Winship nonetheless drew tentative conclusions, namely that the "main function [of trade sales] was the transfer of books from publishers to jobbers and booksellers," that it was likely the "bulk of the books offered at the sales was from a publisher's current list," and that the trade sales provided a "forum for the trade to communicate with itself."

James Green of the Library Company of Philadelphia focused on one publisher, Mathew Carey, and his long struggle to publish and distribute books in late 18th-century America. Mr. Green's description of Carey's "painful and protracted" efforts to sell William Guthrie's *New System of Modern Geography* and Oliver Goldsmith's *History of the Earth* and *Animated Nature* explained how "Carey created the first national distribution network for books and thus overcame the biggest obstacle to the publishing of large editions of large books in this country." Carey's success was based on a combination of entrepreneurial doggedness; personal contact with scores of booksellers in northern, southern, and western states; "bridge" loans from one creditor to another; and an eventual concentration on publishing. Though Carey conducted business mainly by trial and error, he quickly built a national publishing network that foreshadowed the organizations of later 19th-century publishers and distributors.

Publishing networks was also the topic of the next paper, Michael Hackenberg's "The Subscription Publishing Network in 19th-Century America." Mr. Hackenberg showed how subscription publishers exploited the methods of Carey and his foremost itinerant bookseller and agent, Mason Lock Weems, while avoiding their mistakes. Much of their success can also be attributed to improved book manufacturing processes, especially stereotyping; expanded transportation systems, both canal and railroad; and the growing sophistication of advertising and the use of book prospectuses. Mr. Hackenberg traced the expansion of subscription publishing across the United States from the east to the west coasts.

That book distribution in 19th-century America could be rugged work carried out by intrepid individuals was documented by Madeleine B. Stern of Leona Rostenberg and Madeleine Stern Rare Books. Her paper was read by James Gilreath of the Library of Congress. Entitled "Dissemination of Popular Books in the Midwest and Far West During the Nineteenth Century," Ms. Stern's paper described the ways itinerant booksellers, variously called "peddler or salesman, colporteur or correspondent, commercial

(Continued on p. 48)

19th-Century Book *(Continued from p. 47)*
traveller, news agent [and] jobber," sold books in every settlement across the country. Their ability to reach isolated families depended on the expansion of railroads and canals; cheap postal rates for newspapers (much cheap literature was disguised as "extra" editions of newspapers so distribution was less costly); and the establishment of express companies.

Another extensive book distribution network was the subject of the paper given by Michael H. Harris of the University of Kentucky. His paper, " 'Spiritual Cakes Upon the Waters': The Church as a Disseminator of the Printed Word on the Ohio Valley Frontier to 1850," critically re-examined the "significance of the book in the [religious and evangelical] reform movements that swept the nation from 1820–50." Many church leaders were determined to sanctify and uplift the unholy (in their view) inhabitants of the American West by having them read Christian works. Such an undertaking required books—books, Mr. Harris explained, that were "purchased, packed, and shipped" by "voluntary organizations" such as "missionary, tract, bible and Sunday school associations." The books and tracts were then distributed by ministers who carried them in "saddlebags . . . to be sold or given away to families in need of God's word." Mr. Harris also described the work done by specific religious denominations and societies in dispensing Bibles and tracts across American Middle West.

The papers given on the second day of the conference were more eclectic than those given on the first day. Leading off was Alice D. Schreyer of Rutgers University and a consultant to the Center for the Book, speaking on "Copyright and Books in Nineteenth-Century America." She provided an analysis of the evolution of 19th-century copyright law as it affected printing and publishing, relationships between authors and publishers, the concept of authorship, and native manufacturing requirements. Mr. Schreyer's work with the original copyright records reaffirmed the value of re-examining original documents. She discovered a possible extraliterary use of copyright to claim land ownership: "in the earliest extant copyright records from several frontier states, for example Michigan during the 1820s, the very high percentage of maps suggests that cartographers may have registered maps as a way, quite literally, to stake a claim to territory they had surveyed." She concluded with a summary of the rules and forms of copyright deposit and with an overview of locations of records available for the historical study of 19th-century American books.

The next speaker, James Meriwether of the University of South Carolina, turned to the book in the South, speaking on "The Books of William Gilmore Simms." Simms' novels often have highly realistic—and accurate—historical settings. To create his settings, Simms used information from his large personal library, which contained historical documents and letters, literary manuscripts, and printed books and pamphlets. Simms frequently loaned books to his acquaintances and provided reference services by answering many requests for information that were sent to him. He could build a large library because he reviewed about 30 books a year and published notices of another 250 a year. His reviews appeared in southern journals and magazines, making him the major reviewer in the South and the most important southern voice for books prior to the Civil War.

The next two speakers turned from the South to the Far West, California. The first paper on California was given by Robert D. Harlan of the University of California, Berkeley, who described "Printing for the Instant City: San Francisco at Mid-Century." Drawing on his bibliographical work, Mr. Harlan discussed the kinds of job work, periodicals, newspapers, books, and pamphlets produced in San Francisco in the middle of the 19th century. Tentative conclusions show that job work was the financial mainstay of printers (more than would normally be expected); that "San Francisco did serve as the major western American publishing center"; and that it "provided the Bay Area and the state with a varied printing and publishing program which focused effectively upon local and regional themes."

The second paper on California was given by Bruce L. Johnson of the California Historical Society, entitled "California on Stone, 1880–1906: A Proposed Sequel to Harry Peters' Pioneering Study." In 1935 Peters published *California on Stone,* an "alphabetical list 'of the artists, lithographers, publishers, and craftsmen who worked in California or on California subjects' " using the medium of lithography to illustrate California life and culture. Mr. Johnson has undertaken a revision and supplement to Peters. He has discovered 125 lithographers who worked after 1880 and "at least eight firms or individuals not represented in Peters' alphabetical list." Mr. Johnson proposes to do more than simply continue Peters' list. He is also writing a history showing how "stock certificates, bird's-eye views, illustrations for county atlases, topographic maps and charts, or the seemingly lowly lithographic label" promoted the eternal sunshine, land-of-plenty "myth" of California. This "selling of California," according to Mr. Johnson, was the "intent and result of the work of lithographers and those engaged in ancillary trades, both before and after 1880."

The last paper of the conference was given by Terry Belanger of Columbia University, who spoke on "Institutional Book Collecting in the Old Northwest, 1876–1900." He explained that in the last quarter of the 19th century, libraries in the Old Northwest had

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STAFF NEWS

Employee Arts Exhibit Graces the Madison Building

The Library of Congress 14th Annual Employees Arts and Crafts Exhibit has been open on the sixth floor, Madison Building, since December 9. Prior to the opening, a reception was held in the Mumford Room, hosted by Lee Avdoyan, General Reading Rooms Division, (above, left) representing the Library of Congress Professional Association, which has cosponsored the event with the Library of Congress Welfare and Recreation Association. Speaking during the reception was Michael Monroe (above, center), Curator of the Renwick Gallery, who also offered a slide show entitled "New Directions in Studio Glass Art." Robert R. Newlen, Congressional Research Service (shown above, right), attended as one of the members of the exhibit selection committee.

Peter Vankevich (left), copyright examiner, Visual Arts Section, and co-chair of the exhibit, stands at the beginning of the mixed media display of arts and crafts by employees. These works by 75 employees are on exhibit through February 10. Sharing the responsibilities of selecting pieces for the show were (from left to right): Theresa Salazar, Manuscripts Division (next to Mr. Vankevich); Cornelia Goode, Processing Services Department; Dorothy Coley, Copyright Office, and co-chair of the exhibit; and Robert R. Newlen, Congressional Research Service.

AAO Presents Films For Black History Month

The Affirmative Action Office is sponsoring the screening of a four-part film series, *I Remember Harlem,* in celebration of Black History Month. These films treat the history of Black Americans through the particulars of one of its most important communities.

All four films will be shown at each screening in the Mary Pickford Theater, James Madison Building, at 11:30 a.m. on every Wednesday during February. Because of the limited seating capacity, admission to the showings will be by ticket only. Tickets for each Wednesday showing will be available in the Affirmative Action Office, LM 603, on the day before the showing at 11:30 a.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. There is a limit of one ticket per person.

LCPA Begins 1986 Membership Drive

The membership drive for the Library of Congress Professional Association (LCPA) is now under way. The LCPA is an employees' organization, recognized by the Library, but independent in its structure, views, and finances. Dues for 1986 are $3. This supports such activities as the LCPA/WRA art show, the annual book sale, meetings of special interest groups, the continuing education fund, and educational seminars. Members receive the *Newsletter* and *LCPA Broadside.* Each staff member will be contacted by his or her section representative. The membership chair is Dawn Thompson, Copyright Cataloging Division; co-chairs are Ann Christy, Automated Systems Office, and Susan Wolfe, Law Library.

Holiday Celebrations at the Library of Congress

The annual carol sing sponsored by the Library of Congress Welfare and Recreation Association took place at 11 a.m., December 23, in the Great Hall of the Jefferson Building. The program consisted of traditional music by the WRA Choral Society, directed by L. Gerald Hatfield, Jr. *(upper right, center right, and bottom on facing page);* music by the Copyright Chorale, directed by Geoffrey Simon; and solos by George Young and John Watson. The Eastern High School Trumpeters and Drummer also performed *(center left on facing page).*

Visitors from the North Pole—Santa accompanied by Mrs. Claus—arrived in the Great Hall and passed out small gifts to the children *(center left)* who were assembled around a 25-foot-high blue spruce which had been beautifully decorated by WRA officers and members. The tree was donated by Joyce and Bill Stevens (see item in the LC *Information Bulletin,* December 16, 1985). 1985 WRA president, Willie L.A. Jones, greeted staff members and their families and introduced Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin.The WRA president for 1986, Erma Wall, introduced 1986 WRA officers.

Some 250 Library retirees attended the Christmas program and then joined host William J. Welsh, The Deputy Librarian of Congress, and Library department heads for a luncheon in their honor in the buffet room of the Madison Building *(left and right below).*

Following welcoming remarks by Mr. Welsh, the retirees heard reports from Peter Sparks, director for preservation, and Joseph Price, chief, Science and Technology Division, about the Library's experiments with mass deacidification and optical disk technology.

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John Overbeck Retires

John Overbeck, senior descriptive cataloger in English Language Section IV, Descriptive Cataloging Division, since 1979, retired on January 3, after 29 years of Federal service. All but two years of his service was with the Library.

Mr. Overbeck is a graduate of Williams College, where he recieved a B.A. *cum laude,* in 1954. He continued with graduate studies at Yale University and Johns Hopkins University in 1954–55 before two years of military service with the U.S. Army, where he served as a cryptographer for military intelligence in Munich, West Germany.

Mr. Overbeck's appointment to the Library of Congress was in 1957 as a music cataloger in the Copyright Office. In June 1959, he transferred to the Music Section of the Descriptive Cataloging Division, now a part of the Special Materials Cataloging Division, where he held positions of increasing responsibility. He received two outstanding performance ratings while in the Music Section. During the 1970s he served as the U.S. delegate of the International Association of Music Libraries Commission on Music Cataloging and as an advisor to the RILM Thesaurus Subcommission.

His retirement plans include travel, which has always been a favorite pastime, as well as pursuit of interests which he had been forced to set aside during his working career. His colleagues in Section IV heralded his departure with a luncheon in which he was presented a memento, a book on Venice, his favorite vacation site.

James E. McGovern Earns 20-Year Federal Service Award

James E. McGovern, a subject cataloger in the social sciences, was presented a 20-year Federal Service Award pin by Mary K.D. Pietris, chief, and Regene C. Ross, assistant chief, Subject Cataloging Division, on November 22.

Mr. McGovern came to the Library in July 1966, after brief service with the Office of Economic Opportunity, the U.S. Information Agency, and the Smithsonian Institution. He holds a B.A. degree from Fordham University, a master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University, and a master's degree in library science from the Catholic University of America.

Mr. McGovern's entire career at the Library has been in the Subject Cataloging Division. He has been very active in the administration of the Library of Congress Federal Credit Union, including service on its Credit Committee and Board of Directors. His wife, Eve McGovern, is a shelflister in the Subject Cataloging Division.

Staff Activities

John McDonough of the Manuscript Division, and Donald B. Cole, Professor of History at Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H., presented a joint lecture to the Columbia Historical Society, Washington, D.C., on Tuesday evening, January 7. Their subject was "Benjamin Brown French: the Private and Public Life of a 19th-Century Washingtonian." Prof. Cole and Mr. McDonough are editing an 11-volume diary of B.B. French (1800–1870), who was Clerk of the House of Representatives, 1845–47, and Commissioner of Public Buildings under Presidents Franklin Pierce, Abraham Lincoln, and Andrew Johnson. French's residence for the last 28 years of his life was at 37 East Capitol Street, on the present site of the Library of Congress' Thomas Jefferson Building. His diary is in the collections of the Manuscript Division.

Staff Carpool Locator

A member/driver is sought by a carpool from Springfield, Va. (Edsall Rd., Kings Park, Backlick Rd.), on a work schedule of 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., approximately. Call Cora Lynch, Automated Systems Office, at ext. 7-9631 or at home, 354-1760.

Personnel Changes

Appointments: Lois Y. Epps, photographer, GT-3, Photodup; Edwin J. Schupman, Jr., folklife specialist, GS-9, AFC, 50431; Thomas S. Settle, photographer, GT-3, Photodup; Lisa Stevenson, photographer, GT-3, Photodup.

Temporary Appointments: Susan M. Slater, accounting clerk, GS-5, FLICC/FEDLINK.

Resignations: Theresa Buckley, FRD; John T. Carey, SMCD; Francisco J. Carmona, Ser; Claudia Ho, FRD; Gregory D. Knight, CRS; John R. Lineberger, Photodup; Mary A. Moore, NLS/BPH; Michael E. Moore, CDS; Dolores K. Morrison, Photodup; Jeffrey S. Winter, Central Services.

"substantial growth quite closely paralleling that of the nation as a whole" and that there was "considerable correlation between the number of books present in the libraries of the Old Northwest and the population of the six states making up the region." Mr. Belanger said that the first general libraries were subscription libraries, but by the mid-1860s public libraries began to be established. Their collections predominated in fiction and juvenile books but efforts were made from the beginning to include "reference" (non-circulating) books to satisfy information needs of scholars and members of the professions. The readers of each class of book were often in conflict. Eventually fiction and juvenile books comprised the bulk of most collections because they were used more heavily and received commensurate municipal funds for collection development. College and university libraries started with small collections but increased somewhat as academic research began to intensify in the closing decades of the century. Major exceptions were the University of Chicago Library, the John Crerar Library, and the Newberry Library, which in the 1890s already held large research collections.

John Y. Cole provided closing remarks. He mentioned the high quality of all the conference papers, taking special note of the numerous subjects, ranging from copyright to lithography and literacy to stereotyping, explored by the speakers. He drew attention to scholarly projects on 19th-century book history and asked William Joyce of the New York Public Library to report briefly on a publishing and printing history resources project sponsored by the Bibliographical Society of America, the Center for the Book, and the American Antiquarian Society. Mr. Joyce said that the project, now in a pilot phase, has as its goal the production of a guide to manuscript resources throughout the United States. Mr. Cole announced that the publication of the papers of the Chicago Conference will be sponsored by the Center for the Book; Michael Hackenberg will be the editor.

It may be said that research on the 19th-century book is still in its early days. However, the enthusiastic reception of the excellent papers given at the Chicago conference revealed a deep, abiding interest in furthering individual and cooperative research on the history of the 19th-century book.

—Paul S. Koda, consultant,
Center for the Book

Hispanic *(Continued from p. 46)*

Cuban poet Pablo Armando Fernández was the first to appear in the luncheon seminar series, followed by the Mexican critic José-Rueda de la Serna. Carmen Laforet, award-winning Spanish novelist, spoke during the winter of 1985, and José Luis Castillo Puche, also of Spain, delighted his audience at a luncheon seminar this past fall. Chilean novelist Jorge Edwards talked about his work in progress, while Guillermo Cabrera Infante, a Cuban writer residing in London, talked about the bilingual traps a writer can fall into. The Hispanic Division is now hoping to feature the Mexican poet Hugo Gutiérrez de la Vega as the next speaker.

The Hispanic Writers Seminar Series has been received with a great deal of enthusiasm. Embassies, universities, and the Smithsonian Institution have shown their support by cooperating with the Hispanic Division in sponsoring speakers. Each seminar has attracted a capacity audience, and often persons have to be turned away. Students are allowed to attend without having to purchase a lunch.

In addition to the seminar series, the Hispanic Division is trying to issue a new series of audiocassette recordings of Luso-Hispanic writers for sale to the academic community. The Hispanic Division began tape recording writers in 1942. Since that time it has accumulated readings, recitations, and interviews of 572 writers. The Hispanic Division will issue six cassettes of Portuguese and six of Spanish-speaking writers which will be sold by the Library at cost. Descriptions of the authors and their work will accompany the cassettes. The aim of these audiocassettes is to make available to the public the best Luso-Hispanic contemporary writers.

The Hispanic Division also began videotaping interviews with Luso-Hispanic writers in 1984. Jorge Luis Borges was the first writer to be featured with his translator Alastair Reid. Guillermo Cabrera Infante was interviewed by Sara Castro-Klarén and William Luis of Dartmouth College. Randolph Pope of Washington University interviewed José Luis Castillo Puche. In January 1986 Ernesto Sábato, one of Argentina's foremost writers, will be interviewed by Nicholas Shanay of Yale University. The speakers are interviewed by well-known critics and specialists who have studied their work in depth.

Plans for gathering more videotapes are contingent on available funds, as the medium is rather expensive. Only the best known and most recognized writers, especially those getting on in age, will be recorded. José Emilio Pacheco, foremost Mexican poet, will be interviewed next year. Eventually the tapes will be for sale, but they are currently available for viewing in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division.

Each of these programs—the luncheon seminars, the audiocassettes, and the videotapes—are enabling the Hispanic Division of the Library to bring the culture and literature of the Spanish-speaking world to a much wider audience. —Marie Unanue

Book Studies in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe

A Symposium at the Library of Congress, October 30, 1985

More than 110 bibliographers and librarians from North America and Western and Eastern Europe gathered at the Library of Congress at a symposium on October 30 to examine the history and present state of book studies in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The symposium was cosponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and the Bibliography and Documentation Committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS).

Marianna Tax Choldin, U. of Illinois (Photo: Wojciech Zalewski)

Edward Kasinec, conference coordinator (Photo: Wojciech Zalewski)

The symposium was an outgrowth of an earlier working conference which took place at the University of California, Berkeley, in June 1983, under the auspices of the Research and Development Committee of the AAASS, and which had as its goal to review Soviet/Russian work on the pre-revolutionary Russian and Church Slavonic book. The meeting also was the logical culmination of many years of panels at national meetings of the AAASS, at which the issues of Soviet/Russian and East European library and bibliographical history were discussed.

The October 30 symposium dealt with three broad themes: first, the fate of book studies and students of the book during the early years of Soviet power, 1917–1935, in both the Russian Republic and the two important national republics of the Ukraine and Byelorussia; second, the state of book studies in Eastern and Southeastern Europe; and finally, a historical survey of the trade in Slavic books in Western Europe and the United States in the period after World War I. Then, in an attempt to better relate the work of specialists on the Slavic and East European book to current Western scholarship on the book, three book historians who also serve as consultants to the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress were invited to comment on papers presented at the symposium.

The presentations at the conference were enhanced by several bibliographies and checklists distributed at the proceedings: one, a bibliography by Robert A. Karlowich, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N.Y., was entitled "Libraries, Bibliographies and Books in Russia in 1917–1935: A Preliminary Bibliography of Books and Serials on the Period Published in the Soviet Union 1946–1985" (15 p.); another was a compilation by David H. Kraus, acting chief of the European Division of the Library of Congress, consisting of a sampling of some of the valuable archival and manuscript documents important for the history of the development of the Library's extraordinary Slavic and East European collections—among them the diary of Sergei Diagilev, the correspondence of Gennadi V. Yudin, and documents relating to the history of the purchase of Russian imperial palace collections by the Library of Congress during the 1930s. Participants also received copies of a new "International Directory of Librarians and Library Specialists in the Slavic and East European Field."

The Papers

The symposium was opened with a welcome by the host, John Y. Cole, executive director of the Center

for the Book, and Marianna Tax Choldin, head, Slavic and East European Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a former consultant for the Center for the Book. In her remarks, Ms. Choldin noted that the symposium was part of a larger series of panels concerning Slavic bibliography and librarianship which was held during the Third World Congress for Soviet and East European Studies, October 30–November 5, in Washington, D.C.

In their presentations, the first three speakers dealt with the critical two decades in the history of book studies and librarianship in the Russian, Ukrainian, and Byelorussian republics. These years saw the nationalization and confiscation of library collections, a great growth in literacy in the Soviet Union, the development of "guided" and recommendatory bibliography, a rapid development of a new cadre of librarians and bibliographers, and the proliferation of journals, conferences, and symposia (both on the all-union level and in individual republics) devoted to all aspects of book studies. These developments were noted by all three speakers: Miranda Beaven, Slavic and East European bibliographer at the Wilson Library of the University of Minnesota; Dmytro M. Shtohryn, Slavic and East European Library of the University of Illinois; and Zora Z. Kipel, first assistant, Slavonic Division, New York Public Library.

Sadly, some of the presentations also noted a darker side in the history of this period, namely, the accelerated politicization of book studies beginning in the late 1920s, coupled with the attempt to integrate librarianship and bibliography into a pervasive Marxist-Leninist philosophy and epistemology. This attempt, Ms. Beaven noted, resulted in the constriction of the work of some of the "old cadres" educated before the revolution, such as the incunabulist A. Iu. Malein, who died in 1937, and the subject of her own paper, Pavel Konstantinovich Simoni, who died in 1939. More tragic were the fates of bookmen working in some of the republics of the Soviet Union, especially in the Ukraine (treated by Mr. Shtohryn) and Byelorussia (dealt with by Ms. Kipel) where the development of book studies was associated with an overall renaissance in Ukrainian and Byelorussian national, humanistic scholarship during the 1920s. A number of the leading figures in Ukrainian and Byelorussian book studies in this period were suppressed, sent into exile, or in some cases were the victims of an even more tragic fate. The presentations of both Mr. Shtohryn and Ms. Kipel were based on rare publications of those years, small-tirage publications currently being produced in the Soviet Union, and valuable oral testimony from survivors of this period. The devastation wrought on Soviet book studies during the early 1930s caused a severe decline in the number of serious publications in the field, a trend that was not reversed until a generation later.

The second panel attempted to achieve an ambitious goal: to survey the present state of book studies in five Eastern and Southeastern European countries today, namely Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia, and Albania. The panel was chaired by Vitaut Kipel, former first assistant of the Science and Technology Research Center, New York Public Library. Unfortunately, one of the scheduled speakers, Rudolph Vrchotka, Chief Librarian of the Knihovna Narodneho Muzea, Prague, was unable to attend, while the presentation on Yugoslavia, by Tanja Lorkovic, University of Iowa Libraries, was not submitted to the symposium. The presentation by Armin Hetzer, Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Bremen, was made especially valuable by the fact that the speaker is one of the few individuals to observe firsthand scholarly work and publication presently taking place in the archives and libraries of Albania. He noted the rich holdings of Turkish book material held in Albanian repositories.

Vladimir Wertsman, Donnell Foreign Language Library, New York Public Library, began his presentation with a brief overview of present-day book culture in Romania and paid particular attention to work in Romanian national bibliography. In his presentation, Laszlo Kovacs, Purdue University Libraries, dealt less with the important scholarly work in book studies presently taking place in Hungary and more with a descriptive statement on the present state of publishing, libraries, and readership in that country. The success of this panel was vitiated by the absence of Mr. Vrchotka and Mr. Lorkovic, both of whom could have described the important work in incunabula studies and codicology which presently flourish in both countries, while the absence of a Polish representative, too, denied the audience possible insight into important work in library history taking place in many centers in that country.

The third session, chaired by Wojciech Zalewski of the Stanford University Libraries, included presentations by Robert A. Karlowich; Horst Rohling, Universitätsbibliothek Bochum; Helene Kaplan, Bibliothèque de Documentation International Contemporaine, Universités de Paris; and Michael McLaren-Turner, Slavonic and East European Division, British Library; dealing respectively with the development of the Slavic booktrade in the 20th century in the United States, Germany, France, and Great Britain. All of the presentations stressed the importance of archival and manuscript sources, as well as oral evidence in order to reconstruct the history of the book trade in their countries. Rohling's paper (summarized and

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Meetings and Events Around the Library

Tuesday, February 11

☐ "Tax Tips," Art Lieb, Certified Financial Planner. LC Professional Association. Mumford Room, 12:10 p.m. **For members and staff.**

☐ "Research on Latin America at LC," Georgette Dorn, Hispanic Division. LCPA Special Interest Group on Foreign Area Studies. Room LM 642, 11:30 a.m. **For members and staff.**

Wednesday, February 12

☐ "Federal Information Policies," FLICC forum. Mumford Room, 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Thursday, February 13

☐ Beaux Arts Trio. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Friday, February 14

☐ Beaux Arts Trio. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Saturday, February 15

☐ Joshua Bell, violin, and Angela Cheng, piano. Coolidge Auditorium, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 18

☐ "ALA and IFLA Ethnic Studies Roundtables," Enikő M. Basa. LCPA Special Interest Group on Ethnic Resources. Room LM 642, 12:10 p.m.. **For members and staff.**

☐ "Poems on Secret Wishes and Fantasies." LCPA Special Interest Group on Poetry. Room LM 403, 12:10 p.m. **For members and staff.**

Thursday, February 20

☐ Beaux Arts Trio. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Friday, February 21

☐ Beaux Arts Trio. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

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distributed in his absence by Marianna Tax Choldin) gave an in-depth analysis of one specific source, the *Börsenblatt für den Deutschen Buchhandel* and its rich information on the Slavic book. Two other presentations, that by Otto Sagner, co-founder and present head of Kubon & Sagner, Munich; and Andrzej Klossowski, Biblioteka Narodowa, Warsaw, differed in their approach in that the first gave personal testimony and witness to the history of this important firm in the development of the Slavic booktrade in the West, while the second (read in the author's absence by Mr. Zalewski) gave an account of the proliferation of the Polish book in the Polish diaspora in the 20th century.

The concluding session of the symposium was chaired by John Y. Cole. Brief presentations were made by Alice D. Schreyer, visiting librarian for British and American studies, Rutgers University; Donald G. Davis, Jr., associate professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Texas at Austin; and Paul Koda, associate professor, School of Library and Information Science, Catholic University, Washington, D.C. The speakers outlined some of the similarities in problems, especially the preservation of archival and manuscript sources, which confront students of both the East and West European book. Mr. Davis also noted the increasing number of articles and reviews appearing in *The Journal of Library History,* which he edits, that deal with Russian/Soviet and East European library and book studies.

In his closing remarks, Edward Kasinec, chief of the Slavonic Division of The New York Public Library, symposium coordinator and chairperson, noted the regrettable absence of colleagues from the Soviet Union and some of the countries of Eastern Europe, especially Poland and Czechoslovakia, and expressed some anxiety about the low press runs of many important publications (catalogs, symposia proceedings, and bibliographies) presently being produced in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, dealing with book studies. Mr. Kasinec hoped that the next International Congress, to meet in 1990 in Leeds, England, would devote some attention to the important work of Eastern European colleagues on the history of the book in Western Europe and North America. He also felt that this symposium marked a turning point in the development of the Slavic library and bibliographical profession in the United States in that it signaled the first time that the profession had collectively made a strong commitment to the research and scholarly dimension of Slavic and East European bibliography and librarianship and a search for the archival and manuscript sources which document its evolution in the United States and Western Europe. In the opinion of some of the symposium participants, this represents an important development in the evolution of Slavic librarianship in the United States from being merely a service profession to becoming an academic discipline.

—Edward Kasinec and Robert A. Karlowich

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